

counting of the actions he took and those he failed or refused to take. Behind the cordial, benevolent, ever-smiling public man, famed as the father of the people and of the poor, the reader will detect the cool, pragmatic leader whose sense of power relationships and of public opinion was nearly infallible, and whose every act, including his suicide, was calculated for its political effect.

This biography, based chiefly on the extensive papers of Getúlio Vargas and his political associates housed at CPDOC, should serve as an objective introduction to the man and his times for the student and general reader, and as an authoritative source for the specialist in modern Brazilian history.

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RELATED TOPICS

Development and the Politics of Administrative Reform: Lessons from Latin America. By LINN A. HAMMERGREN. Boulder: Westview Press, 1983. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xvi, 213. Paper. \$19.00.

Comparative political analysis dates back to Aristotle, who classified types of states as a means of deriving generalizations. For Latin Americanists, there exists an enduring tension between the desire for problem-specific case studies and the seductiveness of hemispheric conceptualizations. Linn A. Hammergren has provided an admirable balance in her investigation of administrative reform. Separate but truly comparative studies of Peru, Venezuela, and Colombia have been so designed as to illuminate each system while providing bases for broader theoretical statements.

During the 1950s and 1960s, administrative reform was regarded as a crucial element in developmental strategies. Mixed results led to skepticism over the enterprise and, as we are reminded at the outset, a "rejection of the concept of administrative reform is nowhere more complete than in the field of development administration" (p. 1). At the same time, a series of misconceptions were drawn from the early reformist years; these are effectively summarized and challenged (pp. 32–36). The author makes her case for reversing the contemporary bias which suggests that administrative reform is not germane to Latin America today.

The heart of Hammergren's empirical inquiry constitutes her treatment of the three countries in question. Authorities on each system will find her narrative crisp, informative, and coherent. The analyses, which have 1979 as the cutoff point, are balanced and thoughtful. Despite systemic distinctions, there are more

parallels between Peru and Venezuela, as contrasted with Colombia. For all three countries, the relationship between apolitical *técnicos* and the commitment of political elites is relevant. Even granting the narrowness of focus in this book, there is enlightenment on the mythology and reality of administrative reforms.

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They Called Them Greasers: Anglo Attitudes toward Mexicans in Texas, 1821–1900. By ARNOLDO DE LEÓN. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1983. Map. Notes. Epilogue. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xiv, 153. Paper. \$8.95.

Students of Latin America need not go beyond the history of Texas to understand the biased views toward Latin Americans that many North Americans in the United States hold. Anglos, of course, first meaningfully encountered Latin Americans—in this case, Mexicans—in Texas during the early nineteenth century. A newly independent but weak Mexico gambled on protecting its territorial integrity by converting Anglo settlers in Texas into loyal Mexican citizens. The gamble failed. Ungrateful for their land grants and disdainful of Mexican rule, Anglos—the Texans—plotted secession and eventual annexation to the United States. Annexed in 1845 and integrated during the war against Mexico (1846–48), Texas became the first step in the spread of Yankee influence throughout Latin America by the following century. Ideological hegemony, stressing Anglo racial and cultural superiority, accompanied political and economic conquest in Texas.

Arnoldo De León's study makes an important contribution to United States–Latin American intellectual history by documenting the birth and growth of racial thought toward Mexicans in Texas during the nineteenth century. He revises earlier works by Texas historians such as Webb and Barker, who paid little attention to Mexican contributions and who, unfortunately, passed on traditional stereotypes of Mexicans. Researching the same documents used by traditional historians to create a story—the author would call it a myth—of brave and democratic Anglo pioneers, De León examines Anglo views and actions toward Mexicans and paints a less appealing picture of racist leaders and settlers.

Anglos, for example, discriminated against the Mexican mestizo appearance. They considered Mexicans to be “half-negro” and “half-Indian.” They called the Mexicans “greasers.” As one defined it: “A ‘greaser’ was a Mexican—originating in the filthy, greasy appearance of the natives” (p. 16). Anglos further viewed Mexicans as indolent, nonprogressive and, on the whole, culturally inferior. In addition, Mexicans allegedly possessed loose moral values. Mexican women, it was believed, were sexually promiscuous. Anglos regarded Mexicans to be un-American. They could not be trusted to be loyal citizens. To protect themselves against Mexican “subversion,” Anglos practiced what De León ironically refers to as “frontier democracy.” They employed violence toward Mexicans, including